

November 20, 2000

Dear Colleague:

You have been nominated to participate in a "by invitation only" working summit of 160 leaders from Pacific Rim and Basin countries on August 1-3, 2001 at Stanford University. We would like to know as soon as possible if you will be able to join this extraordinary gathering, the *Crowding the Rim* Summit.

This Summit of circum-Pacific leaders will emphasize formulating responses to two key realities: (i) the Pacific Rim will shortly have nearly 2 billion people living within its coastal zone, and (ii) this region has the highest concentration of geologic and climatic hazards in the world. Economic growth and immigration continue to increase and concentrate populations even as economic globalization adds new and far-reaching consequences to the regional risks from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and extreme weather events.

The *Crowding the Rim* Summit is sponsored by a partnership of the Circum-Pacific Council, American Red Cross, Stanford University, and the U.S. Geological Survey, with support from numerous organizations and corporations. Invited participants include leading scientists, economists, business and industry leaders, government policy-makers, and emergency managers from throughout Pacific Rim nations.

At the Summit, participants will discuss the environmental and social risks that threaten the Pacific Basin and project what changes are likely to affect all societies in this region in the future. We have designed the Summit to heighten awareness of regional risk issues and to engage participants in a serious effort to devise strategies for risk assessment and mitigation. We will focus on identifying tools and resources helpful in addressing the regional challenges, building relationships among the leaders who must confront the risks, and formulating ways of improving responses to the problems presented.

Summit participants will engage in a three-day program including plenary sessions, a game simulation, and final small-group sessions devoted to planning ways of increasing understanding and dealing with the challenges identified. A group of distinguished experts will present introductory papers on the underlying issues and serve as resources for the working groups. For the duration of the Summit, all participants will work together intensively while comfortably accommodated on the campus of Stanford University. We expect the format and content of the Summit to foster the personal relationships and understanding necessary for future innovative regional dialogue.

The enclosed brochure contains a more complete description of the Summit agenda. All living expenses while at Stanford will be covered. Travel expenses will be your responsibility; should you require help in this regard, please let us know. To reserve your place at the *Crowding the Rim* Summit, please consult the enclosed registration information and respond by December 18, 2000. We and our supporting institutions hope you will be able to join us in this critically important venture.

Sincerely yours,

David Howell and Donald Kennedy, *Crowding the Rim* Co-chairs

How at risk are we to a regional disaster in the Pacific Rim?

The Circum-Pacific Council, American Red Cross, Stanford University, and the United States Geological Survey have formed an international, public-private partnership to address this question. The *Crowding the Rim* Initiative will examine the economic and societal risks associated with natural disasters in the Pacific and begin the search for joint solutions.

The goals of *Crowding the Rim* are to gain a better understanding of how natural hazards may result in regional disasters, to educate communities throughout the Pacific Rim regarding the extensive nature of regional risk, and to introduce scientific tools and technology that support effective risk-reduction decisions.

To achieve these goals, the partners and their supporting institutions have initiated four key activities:

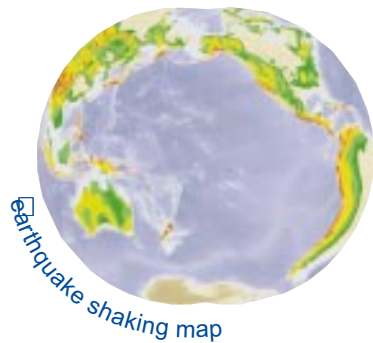
- An international **Summit** will bring natural and social scientists together with various stakeholders and decision makers to examine the regional risks, project changes and challenges and begin a cooperative search for solutions.
- The development of an **international educational module** for secondary school students based on the Summit findings, experiences and data tools will engage and involve the region's future decision makers in the issues.
- The development of a **geographical information system (GIS) database** entitled *HAZPAC*, which incorporates Pacific Rim data on geohazards, demographics, and infrastructure, will allow users to integrate science into regional decision making.
- **Post-Summit workshops** will extend the Summit results and introduce the educational module and GIS to communities throughout the Pacific Rim region.

The need for this new approach to regional risk reduction is clear. Nearly two billion people now live within a one-day overland commute to the Pacific Ocean and are vulnerable to the many natural hazards associated with the Pacific Rim. In our increasingly interconnected economy, where societies are intertwined and regional lifelines for transportation, communication, water and energy resources have few redundancies, the devastating effects of a local disaster can impact societies and economies throughout the region, and its ripple effects can often extend around the globe.

Two recent events provide examples of on how a local disaster may reverberate across larger regions. The effects of the 1999 Taiwan earthquake on the manufacturing of computer chips and supply shipments to flat screen computer manufacturers dramatically impacted the Korean stock market. That same year, disaster victims seeking refuge from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras overwhelmed the economic and educational systems in neighboring South American countries.

Understanding the context of a regional framework will allow for more informed decisions by those responsible for life safety and capital distribution.

Please join us at the Crowding the Rim Summit as we search for answers.



CROWDING THE RIM SUMMIT □

August 1-3, 2001 □

Stanford University, California

You are invited to participate in Summit working sessions with approximately 160 scientists, economists, business and industry leaders, emergency managers, and decision-makers from diverse Pacific Rim and Basin nations. This strategic three-day dialogue will be the first forum committed to examining the economic and societal ramifications of the region's interconnected disaster risks and multi-hazard loss reduction strategies. *Crowding the Rim* will strategically address these regional concerns and begin a cooperative effort to determine joint solutions.

The week prior to the Summit, Stanford's Program for International Cross Cultural Education will conduct a Teacher's Institute for approximately 25 teachers from many of the Pacific Rim nations. The Institute's objective is to train these teachers for participating in the Summit and assisting in the development of an interactive educational module which will build upon the Summit results.

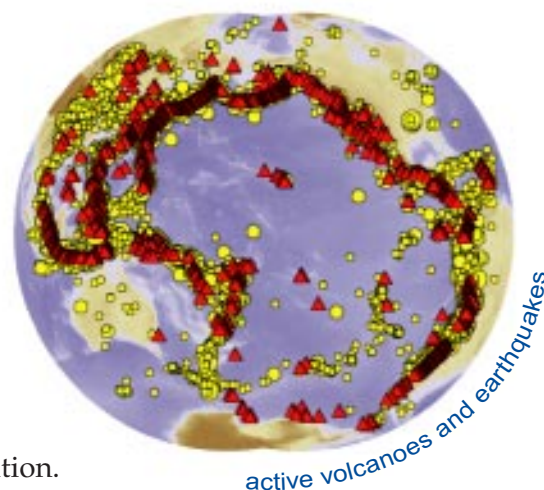
□ SUMMIT AGENDA

July 31 - Arrival of Summit Participants

You will arrive at the Stanford University campus and will be welcomed with a reception and light meal in the evening. After the meal you will register, check into your lodgings, and receive the full program and supporting material for the following three days.

August 1 - Plenary Sessions

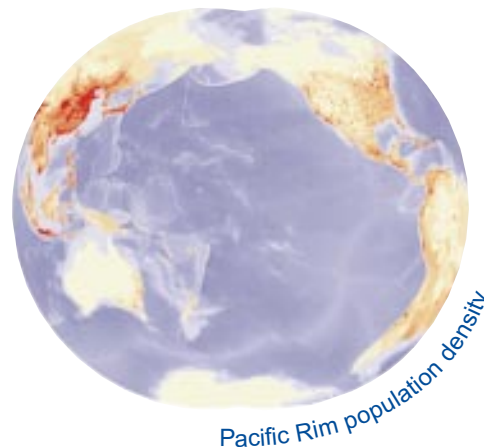
The first full day will consist of a plenary session in which approximately ten experts from around the Pacific will address issues involving resources, hazards, and infrastructure. Their presentations will focus on topics such as global connectedness, infrastructure vulnerability, population growth and migration, extreme weather events and environmental change, emergency management, natural hazards, and pan-Pacific financial framework. The day will end with an opening dinner at the Stanford Faculty Club. When you return to your room following dinner, you will find a "newspaper" reporting on a disaster scenario that will initiate the next day's game simulation.



CROWDING THE RIM

□ August 2 - Game Simulation

- On the second day, you will work with a team of 30 to 40 people to experience and respond to the cascading effects of simulated disaster scenarios. Your team will be composed of members with diverse expertise and regional representation. You will be challenged to work together to integrate scientific and technical information into decision-making processes, untangle complex economic dependencies, develop regional mutual aid approaches, and apply disaster management to effective policy implementation.



Each group will be able to consult with the ten plenary session speakers from the previous day. In addition, Geographical Information System (GIS) specialists will provide maps and pertinent Pacific Rim data from *HAZPAC*, an interactive GIS map database on geohazards, demographics, and infrastructure in the Pacific Rim. Your working group will strive to develop an evaluation of the consequences and possible secondary risks of the simulated events. In the late afternoon, each group will share its conclusions with the rest of the groups assembled.

August 3 - Formulating Recommendations

During the third day, you and your fellow Summit participants will consider a newly-developed large-picture risk profile based on present Pacific Rim conditions. This risk assessment will include not only the immediate impacts of disasters like (but not limited to) the scenario case, but farther-reaching consequences due to economic and social connectedness. The Summit's ultimate product will be a statement describing that risk profile and suggesting further steps for preparation and mitigation. A closing dinner will be held at a California winery.

Your participation in the *Crowding the Rim* summit will contribute greatly to the initiative to generate a sustainable awareness of and concern with the risks that are increasingly shared by all who reside around the Pacific Rim. You will leave the Summit with both a greater understanding of regional interdependencies and a series of products addressing these issues:

- New connections and strengthened alliances with diverse counterparts around the Pacific Rim
- The recently developed *HAZPAC* GIS database and instructions on its use
- Results and conclusions from the game simulation
- Complete transcripts of summit presentations representing a wide range of expertise

Your perspectives and contributions will help ensure the Crowding the Rim Summit's success. We look forward to seeing you there.



PARTNERS

Circum-Pacific Council
American Red Cross
Stanford University
United States Geological Survey

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Geological Institute
Asia Society
Earthquake Megacities Initiative
International Geographical Union
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
International Union of Geological Sciences
Organization of American States
Pacific Disaster Center



CORPORATE SPONSORS

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ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Petroleum Geologists
California Coastal Commission



Crowding the Rim

M/S 975 - 345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park CA 94025 USA
tel: (01) 650-329-5430 fax: (01) 650-329-4936
email: ctrsummit@usgs.gov
www.crowdingtherim.org



PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY DECEMBER 18, 2000

☐ Yes, I am able to attend. *Please continue below.*

☐ No, I am unable to attend.

REPLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION

- To register **online**, visit <http://cesp-ancell.stanford.edu> on the World Wide Web.
- To register using this **form**, please fill in the lines below, then fax or mail to the contact listed at the bottom of this page.

Name _____

Address _____

Country _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Facsimile _____

REGISTRATION PAYMENT OPTIONS

Reservations must be accompanied by a registration fee of \$50 (U.S.).

- ☐ Please charge my registration fee of \$50 (U.S.) to my credit card.

Type of card (circle one): VISA MASTERCARD

Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

- ☐ My check or money order for \$50 (U.S.) – made out to ***Crowding the Rim Summit***:

☐ is enclosed with this form.

☐ has been mailed / couriered separately.

- ☐ My registration fee of \$50 (U.S.) has been wire transferred to:

Stanford University, Wells Fargo Bank, 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA USA,
account #4001-047349, ABA #121000248, BIC #WFBIUS6S, re: ***Crowding the Rim Summit***.

FAX OR MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT BY DECEMBER 18, 2000 TO:

Mary Z. Ancell, Ph.D.

Summit Coordinator, Crowding the Rim

CESP, Institute for International Studies

E-419, Encina Hall

616 Serra Street

Stanford, CA 94305-6055 USA

Telephone: (01) 650-723-8060

Email: ancell@stanford.edu

Fax: (01) 650-725-1992

- To send credit card information use the secure fax: (01) 650-851-6233